

Friis, John

From: strom@snet.net
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2009 3:12 AM
To: Friis, John
Subject: More ECA support for HB 6666, sec. 5

Hon. John Friis
 Clerk, Education Committee

Re: ECA; HB 6666, and more testimony;
 INVITATION - MARCH 19 - 7 PM - ECA -ARTS HALL
NEW MUSIC / NEW SOUNDS III

Dear Mr. Friis,

I wanted to write to thank you for receiving all of the emails from us ECA parents, students, alumni and other supporters, and providing them to the Chairment and the Committee. You and Kate helped make the legislative process much more user friendly, especially since almost all of us had never done anything like this before. Please thank both Chairmen, Sen Gaffey, and Reo. Felischman, and all the members of the committee for being so gracious, understanding and complementary of our student. My only regret is that many of the students had worked so hard on their 3 minute testimonies, and they were not able to speak. I also especially regret that Noah Baerman, one of our most distinguished ECA alumni was not able to speak with the students, although he was signed up with them. Please take some extra time to read all of their written statements they submitted.

When I got home from the Education Committee meeting, I found some **additional emails** that I wish to forward as additional testimony in support of HB 6666, sec. 5, and ECA. Here it is:

Date: Mon, 16 Mar 2009 17:38:08 -0700
From: catherin.collins@sbcglobal.net

I could have my daughter study music at her local highschool, with a "certified teacher", that would be the easy, predictable path to take. **The whole reason** that we sent Kaila to ECA is because the instructors are **established professional artists** and musicians still pursuing their craft. They have a pulse on the art community coming from first hand experience that is current and relevant. They think like an artist, not like a teacher. Come watch any ECA concert, watch the teachers conduct, especially the jazz guy. There's a passion, an energy, a rhythm happening that transcends and extends beyond simple production of music. It's **art in the making**, happening now, alive and vibrant. You can't get that from regular teachers. I hate to say that because **I am a certified teacher**.

ECA thrives and flourishes and **infuses** each new generation of performers because the **teachers are artists themselves** and they pass on way more than curriculum and technique and predictably paced rhythms. **They pass on emotion, energy, and weave the efforts of their findings into a tapestry of sound radiating with life.** They're certified teachers as far as I'm concerned. They're certified in life. If you remove these wonderful teachers from the landscape of ECA simply because they are not certified, you remove the very blood from the veins of what makes ECA thrive.

On behalf of Judy Caldwell, the Music Department Chair, the music faculty and students, I wish to invite you to ***NEW MUSIC / NEW SOUNDS III***. If I remember correctly, Tawnie Olson, one of our composition teachers will tell you, **ECA produces the only music festival of its kind in the country**

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where high school students compose, arrange, and perform their own original music. In the near future we will be sending you a schedule of other performnces and events, such as readings (by our writing students), plays, drama, musical theater, and visual arts shows, to which members of the Education Committee, and other legislators are invited.

Thanks again for all of your help with this process.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Strom